



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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18 MARCH 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
18 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

The military directorate decided at a meeting this morning that it must stand firm in the face of Buddhist pressure. There was agreement that concessions right now would lead the Buddhists to up their price and "there would be no end to it."

Premier Ky, for one, says he has put up with enough from the likes of Tri Quang.

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The big question now is how the Buddhists will react.

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Several Vietnamese question the extent of popular support the Buddhists command in the capital.

The northern provinces were relatively quiet today. There was an anti-Ky rally in Da Nang attended by General Thi, who seems reluctant to leave his old stamping grounds and return to Saigon.

Right now both sides to the dispute seem disposed to keep within peaceful channels.

2. South Vietnam

The Chinese community in Saigon is growing uneasy. Reports from the capital say that Chinese businessmen, who control much of the nation's import-export business, are anxious and resentful in the face of a growing number of police visits to Chinese merchants and the execution of one of their number. On top of this, another Chinese was gunned down today on the streets of Cholon, probably by Viet Cong gunmen with the aim of adding to the restiveness.

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3. North Vietnam

Hanoi continues to improve its air defense mechanism.

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4. Indonesia

The army this morning seems finally to have moved very close to full assumption of power

Fifteen leftist cabinet ministers--including Subandrio--have been detained, and Suharto has already appointed replacements. Three of these appointees are army officers, the rest moderate civilians. This reshuffled cabinet, however, is apparently to be only an interim government.

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5. France

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] De Gaulle is
quoted as saying that there would be a
regular communiqué, but nothing more.

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6. NATO

The UK draft declaration in support of an integrated NATO was unanimously approved today, but different views on the future of the alliance and France's relationship lurk behind it.

In Britain there is considerable sympathy for De Gaulle's assertion that the US dominates the alliance. Italian officials fear possible complete French disassociation would place Italy at a "geographic and strategic" disadvantage. In West Germany, the opposition Social Democrats feel continued French participation is necessary to reassure other European countries regarding a growth of German influence.

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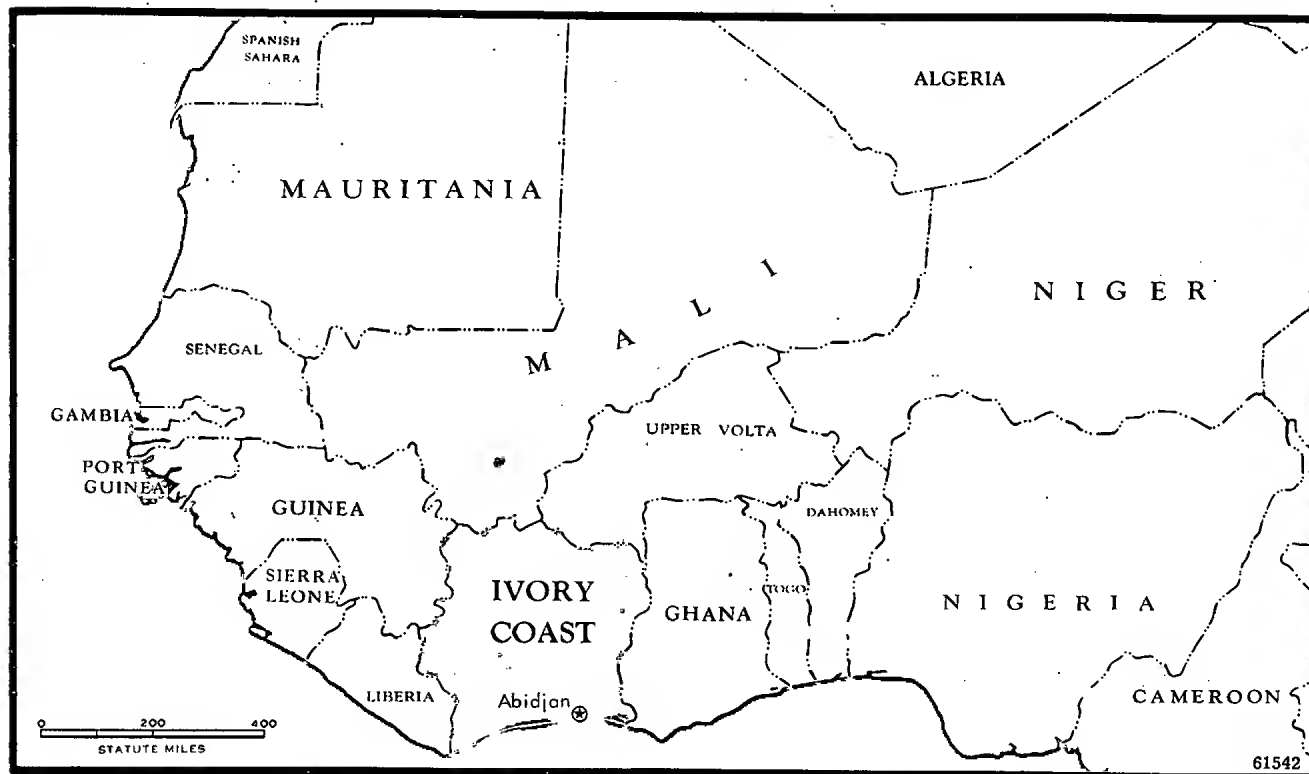
7. UK

With elections only 13 days away, the latest opinion polls show Labor's abnormally large lead over the Tories--13 percent--unshaken. If people vote according to their opinions, Wilson could end up with a 200-seat majority.

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WEST AFRICA



8. Ivory Coast

The bombast spewing out of Conakry about returning Nkrumah to Ghana is beginning to get to pro-Western President Houphouet-Boigny.

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9. Kenya

The government is continuing to make life miserable for Communists in Kenya.

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10. Dominican Republic

[redacted] Bosch, despite protestations that the climate is not yet right, has instructed his party to go ahead with plans for the election. His supporters have been ordering supplies for the campaign, and Bosch has outlined a strategy calling for him to make extensive use of radio and television. Despite his letting preparations proceed, he probably will finally decide to run only if convinced he can win--and remain in office.

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11. Burma

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